



# The N.Q. Compass



## The District Grand Lodge of North Queensland

Vol. 6 No. 11

News Letter

May 2025

Brethren,

A warm welcome to the **Eleventh Edition** of the NQ Compass for **2024-2025!**

I hope that you and your families continue to remain in good health and that you are all enjoying the predominantly fine and cooler weather that we are currently experiencing - a nice change from the prior wet and humid conditions!

The District Office has remained busy for the month April mainly as the DGLNQ Teams have commenced visitations for our **2025 Lodge Installations** plus **three of our Lodges** held their special **Anzac Meetings**. This reflects well on the respect that our brethren and families across our District hold for those who have and are now servicing our Nation to keep us safe!

Visitations undertaken and highlights for April are as follows:

**Sat 5th April** – As Dist GM, I was invited to **Proserpine Whitsunday Lodge** for the **Installation of Wor Bro Ron Davies** as **Lodge WM**. I was supported by a larger **DGLNQ UGLQ Team of 13 Officers** on the night and there was a good attendance from the Lodge brethren. I was privileged to present **Wor Bro Bogie with his PM's jewel** and the **Lodge EA, Bro Josiah Samuel with his Square and Compass Lapel pin**. We thank the Lodge brethren and ladies for an entertaining festive board and night of fellowship!

**Mon 21st April** - At the **Northern Travellers Lodge** monthly meeting, successful ballots were held for **four new members**. **Bro Kyle Gaussoin (our new EA and first student member)** was then passed to the **2nd Degree** with Legendary member Ray Bailey delivered the 2nd degree tracing Board. **WM Tim Ahern** presented **Wor Bro Lewis Sutherland** with his **Past Grand Standard Bearer Grand Rank Certificate!** We have work on hand for several months with another **First Degree in May** and we may have another candidate in the wings!

As Dist GM, I am proud to report that the following three Lodges held their customary **ANZAC Meetings** to commemorate the **110th Anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli**.

**Wed 24th Apr** - It was a privilege to attend the **Corinthian Lodge** meeting in Charters Towers with Bros. Litka-Fry, Souter-Smith, Keane, Andrea and Beryl. **WM Roger Landsberg**

and the brethren who assisted with the service are to be congratulated on a great outcome as over **60 persons (maybe a record)** were present in the Lodge.

**Wed 24th Apr - T'ville AIF Memorial Lodge** held their meeting at 50 Ingham Rd . The well-prepared and thoughtful address from the guest speaker at the meeting provided an opportunity for all present to reflect on their personal connection to Anzac Day. During the ceremony, **WM Jason Ballard** presented **Bro Harry Harton** with his **Master Mason's Certificate!**

**Thurs 24th Apr - Dep Dist GM, VW Bro Joel Coleman and Wor Bro Michael Litka-Fry** travelled to Bowen to represent **Freemasons NQ at Kennedy Lodge's ANZAC Commemorative Service**. It was a very family and community friendly meeting including wives, children and community members. The Lodge conducted a solemn **Vacant Chair Ceremony** and addresses were given by Bowen SHS Leaders and Lodge members.

**Sat 26th Apr** - It was a great night for the brethren of **JS Popham Conclave No 7** who held a meeting to **Install their Worthy Supreme Ruler, Clement Plath**. A **Scarlet Cord Meeting** was held in the morning to induct three new members to the **First and Second Grades**. A harmonious and enjoyable festive board ensued!

**Tues 30th Apr** - I am currently **Ex First Princ of Cleveland RAC No 18** and at an **Emergent Meeting**, we conferred the **MEM and SEM Degrees** on **Wor Bros Jason Ballard, Lee Bridson, Mohammed Malabu and Bro Naph Yague**. Congratulations to all Companions on a job well done!

**Detailed reports and photos for each event can be found on following pages.**

**Date Claimers and Other Events on the DGLNQ 2025 Calendar** are as follows and as advised within the NQ Compass!

- **Sat 24th May 2025—DGL Carpentaria Proclamation for RWBro Dave Scott as Dist GM and Investiture of his District Officers**

Once again, I thank you for your continued support for DGLNQ and myself as Dist GM.

Fraternally John / John Playford / Dist GM / DGLNQ

## May LODGE MEETINGS and Events

Lodge/Event	Time	Date	Where	Work
Millican 137	7:30pm	1/5/25	50 Ingham Rd	
Ashlar Magnetic 509	3:00pm	3/5/25	Magnetic Is	
Proserpine Whitsunday 251	4:00pm	8/5/25	Proserpine	1st Degree (change of date)
St Andrew of Townsville 94	7:30pm	8/5/25	50 Ingham Rd	6pm Dinner at Cowboys Leagues Club
Townsville AIF Memorial 377	3:00pm	10/5/25	50 Ingham Rd	Installation
Kennedy Lodge #11	7:30pm	14/5/25	Bowen	
Unity 300	7:00pm	15/5/25	50 Ingham Rd	
Hinchinbrook Cordelia 69	7:00pm	15/5/25	Ingham	
Harmony Daylight 530	10:00am	16/5/25	50 Ingham Rd	
Star of the West	1:30	3/5/25	Hughenden	Meeting only
Northern Travellers 384	7:00pm	19/5/25	50 Ingham Rd	1st Degree
DGL Carpentaria	2pm	24/5/25	Cairns	Proclamation
Corinthian/St John Davenport	10am	31/5/25	Charters Towers	2 Installations and 1 Festive Board

### LODGE HAPPENINGS: Proserpine Whitsunday Installation

The Dist GM, John Playford, accompanied by his wife Andrea, Dist G DC Geoff Jackson, DDist GDC, Morrie Bligh, Past Dist GM Ian Barrett and his wife Anne, travelled by bus to visit Proserpine Whitsunday Lodge on Saturday 5th April 2025 for the Installation of Wor Bro Ron Davies as WM of the Lodge. There they met up with Dist Grand Officers from Bowen and Proserpine and Grand Officers from Mackay, providing a team of 15 to enter the Lodge. The Dist GM was honoured to present Wor Bro Bob

Bogie with his IPM Jewel and to present the Lodge's EA Bro Josiah Samuel with his Freemasons Lapel Pin and a Letter of Welcome from our GM MW Bro Jeff Harper AFSM on behalf of his Lodge brethren! The Dist GM also congratulated the Lodge on the very well conducted ceremony.



After the ceremony, the Brethren joined the ladies for a very relaxed and harmonious festive board which was well catered for by Wor Bro Greg Yuskan's wife Amanda. The drawing of the raffle prizes is always entertaining as it brings out the competitive spirit between Kennedy and Proserpine Whitsunday Lodges. The ongoing battle of which Lodge wins the most prizes was won by Proserpine this year.

Thank you to Proserpine for their hospitality and a great night was had by all!



## ANZAC Meetings: Corinthian/ St John Davenport in Charters Towers

The Dist GM John Playford and his wife Andrea, Wor Bro Mick Litka-Fry , Pres BoB, RWBro Les Keane PAGM, VWBro Norm Souter Smith and his wife Beryl enjoyed a very pleasant and jovial bus trip to Charters Towers on Wednesday 23rd April 2025, to represent Freemasons NQ at the successful ANZAC Meeting, held this year by Corinthian Lodge.



Sixty attendees with representation from the Charters Towers Sea Cadets, Charters Towers Emergency Services, Charters Towers Fire Service, Blackheath and Thornborough College, Charters Towers State High and the Charters Towers Choir and other family and friends filled the Lodge Room.



Guest speakers were Sasha Young and Macarthur Anderson, (grandson of RWBro Alastair Andersen, Hughenden) both School Leaders from Blackheath & Thornburgh College, addressed the audience with an enlightening account of what ANZAC Day means to them as the youth of Australia.



Representatives from the Sea Cadets formed the Catafalque Party before the Brethren conducted the empty chair ceremony. A young bugler from CT State High, ably performed the Last Post to commemorate our fallen soldiers and Reveille to signal the end of the minute of silence and with the choir to support the singing of hymns, the whole ceremony proved very moving.



Additional addresses were given by the Dist GM on the Battle of Milne Bay with which he has personal connection through his father and uncle having served there. Wor Bro Roger Landsberg, WM of Corinthian Lodge who Chaired the meeting, also delivered an address on his experiences visiting the Battlefields in France and Belgium.



RWBro Gordon McColl led a 'question time' for those in attendance to explain features of the Lodge and Freemasonry. It was a credit to both Ch Towers Lodges who worked together and integrated with the local community to provide the service. The Lodge has received great feedback, from guests on how heartfelt and moving the ceremony was to them.



Thornborough Old Boys with Jim Rebgetz  
OAM—All Souls



BTC school leaders with Dist GM and RWBro Anderson



Representatives from Emergency Services

## ANZAC Meetings cont'd: Townsville AIF Memorial Lodge

### ANZAC Commemoration Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

The 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 marked the 110th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli—an event often regarded as the birth of two great nations. In keeping with the finest traditions of the Townsville AIF Memorial Lodge, our ANZAC Ceremony was held on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.

The Brethren are well-versed in the details of the landings and the sobering consequences that arose from a poor understanding of the battlespace. Hence, over recent years, our Lodge has chosen to explore themes beyond the traditional narrative, using ANZAC Day as a lens to reflect on broader topics that challenge us intellectually and emotionally.

Our past presentations have included; accounts of those Brethren who served in the First World War; "What ANZAC Day Means to Me" – a talk from a senior serving soldier and Worshipful Master; and a Regimental-styled ANZAC Dinner with LTGEN (Rtd) Caligari AO, DSC as Guest Speaker. This year's theme was particularly poignant: *"What ANZAC Day Is to Me – Through the Eyes of an Immigrant."*

This year's speaker began by sharing his family and personal history before arriving in Australia, offering a rich and contrasting perspective to traditional narratives. Drawing on the strategic and political domain regarding the impending fall of the Ottoman empire, previous failed plans and internal disruption at the highest levels of planning whilst drawing upon the relentless conditions in which the ANZAC's fought. His words painting layers in the cognitive mind whilst conversely generating some self-reflection.

The presentation concluded with the original poem *"For the want of a Nail"* and a powerful closing reflection, prompting the audience to contemplate their personal connection to ANZAC Day in ways both familiar and unfamiliar.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of Bro 'Harry' Harton's Master Mason Certificate by the Worshipful Master; 'one senior soldier to another'. Few moments could have been more poignant or symbolically fitting than this.

Each year, our ANZAC talks stir reflection, raise unspoken questions, and remind us that remembrance is not just about looking back—it is also about understanding who we are today, and who we strive to be tomorrow.



## Kennedy Lodge, BOWEN

On Thursday 24th April 2025, VW Bro Joel Coleman and Wor Bro Michael Litka-Fry travelled down to Bowen to represent Freemasons NQ at Kennedy Lodge's ANZAC Commemorative Service. It was a very family and community friendly meeting including wives, children and community members.

Four School Leaders from Bowen SHS addressed the Lodge on "What ANZAC Day means to them". One of the Leaders spoke of her Great Grandfather who had been a prisoner of war in Changhi during WWII and she read a letter he had written to her Great Grandmother from prison in the Christmas of 1942 and his hope that they would soon be back together. Sadly we know it would have been another 4 years before his return. This touching tribute highlighted the esteem the youth of today still hold for the Greatest Generation.

During the meeting, the Lodge conducted a solemn Vacant Chair Ceremony with addresses from both WorBro Potts, who chaired the meeting and Deputy District GM, VWBro Joel Coleman. Joel spoke of his ANZAC Day experience whilst deployed in the Middle East, which was attended by both Allied and Turkish forces. The ceremony was spoken in both English and Turkish signifying the close relationship and friendship the former enemies now have as they stand together to commemorate ALL soldiers killed in the campaign.

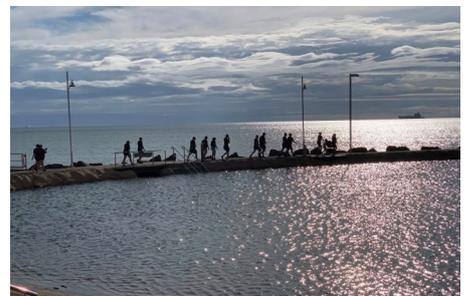
WorBro Andersen also presented Legacy representatives with the money raised from the raffle to support their ongoing work in the community.



## RUN ARMY



The Dist GM reports that he, along with Bro's Jeff Martin, Jason Ballard and Naph Yague gathered early on Sunday morning 6th April to support the Run Army 2025 event to raise funds for several worthy causes! I only walked 5 kms but the others ran 5 & 10 kms!! The weather was great and it was quite a scenic walk!! Well done to all involved and thanks to Naph Yague to making the effort to have a Freemasons NQ team present for the day!!



## Tribute to fallen brothers:

### Brother Trooper Herbert Selwyn (Tom) Dawson

Herbert Selwyn Dawson was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1887 in Burwood, in the Colony of New South Wales to John Acton and Florence Mary Dawson. Herbert, affectionally known as "Tom" by his friends and family was educated at Fort Street Public School at Millers Point, in Sydney. There is very little known about Herbert's life until he and his three brothers took up a selection of land at Mount Landsborough just south of Winton, Queensland and worked the land as a grazier.

Upon the declaration of war, Hebert enlisted to serve in the Great War three months later, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1914 at Enoggera, Queensland.

Posted to the 5<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment and sent to Sydney, New South Wales, he left Australia for Egypt in December 1914. On arrival in Egypt, he was posted to Maadi Camp for training before being sent to the Gallipoli peninsula in May of 1915. Herbert was a strapping young man, aged 27 and over 5ft 9in tall, but he succumbed to the appalling conditions the men were asked to endure during this campaign. He died the following month from heart failure after falling ill with diarrhoea and most likely dysentery, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 1915. He was buried by Chaplain J K Miller at the Shell Green Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey.

Brother Trooper Herbert Selwyn Dawson was initiated into Winton Lodge holden under the United Grand Lodge of England on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1914, he didn't complete any further degrees due to enlisting in the Australian Imperial Forces twenty-one days later.



*Left to right Herbert Dawson, with Trooper Walter Young of Winton (on the motorcycle), third person unknown. It is believed the photo was taken at camp just before departing Sydney in December 1914.*

Reference –

[Herbert Selwyn DAWSON \(masonicgreatwarproject.org.uk\)](http://masonicgreatwarproject.org.uk)

[Winton Lads, 5th Light Horse | State Library Of Queensland \(slq.qld.gov.au\)](http://slq.qld.gov.au)

Trove NLA Website   NAA Website   AWM Website   VWMA Website

S Cox, PM, January 2024

## Private Augustus Isidor Rockstrow



*Circa late 1890's*

Augustus Isidor Rockstrow was born in 1878 to Dr John and Anna Rockstrow in Foxton, New Zealand. Augustus was an engineer by trade having completed a five year apprenticeship with W. Cable and Co Engineers, Wellington, New Zealand. He is believed to have left New Zealand at the turn of the century for Liverpool, England. In July 1904, Augustus left Liverpool for New York, United States of America and then by 1912 he had moved to Townsville, Queensland. In 1913 he had moved to Yarraman, Queensland where he was employed as a foreman.

Before enlisting in the Great War, Augustus moved back to North Queensland to a small town just outside of Townsville, called Oolbun. Augustus enlisted into the Australian Imperial Forces at the recruitment office in Townsville on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 1916, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Machine Gun Company. He departed Australia via the port in Melbourne on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1916, arriving in England just over two months later for training. On completion of training Private Rockstrow was re-deployed to France in late April 1917. While fighting on the Western Front in Belgium, Augustus sustained multiple gunshot wounds and was admitted to hospital on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1917, he succumbed to his wounds nine days later dying on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 1917. He is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Lijssenthoek, Flanders, Belgium. His next of kin was his brother Captain John Rockstrow of the New Zealand Army, a veteran of the Boer War and served in New Zealand during the Great War.

Brother Augustus Isidor Rockstrow was initiated, passed and raised in a Lodge from the Grand Lodge of New York. He joined Lodge Yarraman No. 3652 holdon under the United Grand Lodge of England, near Toowoomba, Queensland. It is unknown if Brother Rockstrow attended Lodge in the district of North Queensland.

References –

[Rockstrow family - Manawatū Heritage \(pncc.govt.nz\)](http://pncc.govt.nz)

[Augustus Isidor ROCKSTROW \(masonicgreatwarproject.org.uk\)](http://masonicgreatwarproject.org.uk)

AWM Website

NAA Website

Trove NLA Website

*S Cox, PM, December 2023*



*We would like to acknowledge the sudden passing to the Grand Lodge Above of Wor Bro Kevin Yarrow, Master of Kennedy Lodge #11. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.*

*Also Penny Bell longtime member of the OES and life partner of Claude Wilder, Unity Lodge. Our thoughts are with her family and friends. Penny's funeral is scheduled for the 6th May 2025 at 10:45am at Morley's Funeral Home*

## JS Popham Installation

The Installation of Worthy Brother Clement Plath at J S Popham Conclave No 7 of the Order of the Secret Monitor for Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea saw a new wave of Brethren taking office on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Townsville Masonic Centre. The event was supported by the Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler, Most Wthy Bro Wayne Smith, heading a delegation of Grand Conclave Officers from the south.



It was also an opportunity to conduct a meeting of the Scarlett Cord in the morning session inducting three new members into the First and Second Grades.



The Brethren enjoyed a light luncheon between events with the Installation banquet, prepared by Mrs Andrea Playford, with partners held in the evening. From all reports the day was full of fraternal friendship, good food, and drinks. The festive board tables were prepared by Liz Griffiths assisted by Val Bligh to highlight a memorable day.



Morrie Bligh, Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler



# WHAT IS THE ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR?



## 'The Caring Order'

The Order of the Secret Monitor, also known as the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, is a fraternal order within Freemasonry. It is open to Master Masons and is characterised by its emphasis on friendship, loyalty, and mutual support among its members. The order draws inspiration from the biblical story of the deep friendship between David and Jonathan, which symbolises the ideals of brotherhood and trust. Rituals and ceremonies within the order often reflect these themes, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie and moral integrity. Members are encouraged to support one another in both personal and professional endeavours, strengthening the bonds of fraternity. JS Popham Conclave No. 7 meets in Townsville and is part of the Grand Conclave of Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea.



JS Popham Conclave Meets in the Townsville Masonic Centre 4th Friday in February, August, 2nd Friday in October, 2nd or 3rd Saturday in April, (Installation)

Interested in joining or would like more information?? Contact Right Worthy Brother Morrie Bligh:  
[morrievalerie@bigpond.com](mailto:morrievalerie@bigpond.com) or (07) 4723 2162

## Northern Travellers #384—2nd Degree and new members

It was a busy night for members of the Northern Travellers Lodge No. 384 at their meeting on Monday 21st April 2025. Ballots were held for 4 new members, 1 x Candidate, 1 x Ent Apprentice (the First Student Member) and 2 x Affiliates.



After a successful ballot, they then passed Entered Apprentice, Bro Kyle Gaussoin to

the 2nd Degree. It was also a memorable night for Bro Gaussoin as 95 Yrs young and legendary member VW Bro Ray Bailey delivered an excellent 2nd Degree Tracing Bd lecture.

During the meeting, WM Wor Bro Tim Ahern also presented Wor Bro Lewis Sutherland with his Past Grand Standard Bearer Grand Rank Certificate - Congratulations Lewis!!

The meeting was well attended and Bro Gaussoin conducted himself well and all of the work was of a good standard. Northern Travellers now have work on hand for several months with their next meeting on Mon 19th May 25 being a First Degree - Practice will be on Wed 14th May!!



### Aims of The N.Q. Compass.

- To promote those values and virtues we as Freemasons profess.
- To provide articles of interest to Members.
- To promote discussion and debate amongst Brethren.
- To highlight the activities of the Lodges in this district.
- To recognise individual achievements.
- To inform



*Please stay safe and well. We know there are a number of brethren/wives who are not feeling 100%. Please know our thoughts are with you and we hope you have a speedy recovery .*